special employment programme and 1,000 employment per block in 'block' special employment programme.

(c) The number of additional jobs likely to be created will emerge after selection of all districts, blocks and finalisation of strengthening of normal programmes.

Out Standing Loans of Sick units

2633. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the extent of assets including plant, machinery and outstanding bank loans (separately) locked up with the sick industrial units in the country as on date;

(b) what percentage of the sick units fall in the small scale sector; and

(c) what are the chances of recovery of the locked up capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country are compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. The data relates to the bank credit outstanding against sick industrial units. The data on the amount of money locked up in plant and machinery are not centrally maintained.

According to the latest RBI data, the detail of industrial units in the country in the small scale and non-small sectors reported sick and outstanding bank credit as at the end of September, 1992 are as follows :

	Number of sick units	Percentage of total sick units	Outstanding amount (in Rs. crores)
Non-Small Scale Sector	1,599	0 68%	6,804.52
Small Scale Sector	2,33,441	99.32%	3,345.45

Recovery is facilitated by rehabitation of a viable sick/weak unit. For this purpose detailed guidelines have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India regarding formulation/ implementation of rehabilitation pagkages in respect of sick/weak units considered potentially viable. The banks initiate legal action and other measures for recovery of dues from those sick/weak units which are found non viable.

Increase in price of Newsprint

2634. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a price increase of Rs. 1500 per tonne has been announced by newsprint manufacturing mills; if so, the cogent reasons for allowing such an increase;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present increase works out to about eight per cent; and in the last five years the prices have been increased seven times, and by almost 90 per cent; if so, the reasons for which it is allowed to happen this way; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the newsprint mills are misusing Goverment's policy by increasing the price as their sales are protected and ensured by Government; if so, what steps are taken by Government to allay the fears of Indian Newspaper Society which is in disarray due to the above mentioned trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Prices of newsprint were increased by four mills viz. Hindustan Newsprint Limited. The Mysore Paper Mills Ltd., NEPA Ltd., and the Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Ltd. in October/November, 1991 by about Rs. 1500 PMT.

A statement indicating the increase in the price of Newsprint during the last five years is attached (*See* below). The increase in prices of newsprint has been attributed by the newsprint mills mainly to the escalation in their input costs such as coal, power, bamboo, imported pulp etc.

(c) There is no statutory control over the prices of newsprint. Every revision in the prices of indigenous newsprint is referred to the BICP for a post facto study into its causes and justification.